

# Master Thesis Research Process—IB

Semester: Winter 2023/2024 | Goals of the Course | Assessment Criteria | Course Schedule

Wednesday 11:30 – 13:00 | 30-Hour Course | Lecture Room: C209

## Lecturers:

*Prof. Dr. Monika Bąk, Ph.D., Hab.*

Office: A203

Office Hours: Tuesday, 9:45-11:15

Email: [monika.bak@ug.edu.pl](mailto:monika.bak@ug.edu.pl)

UG Economics webpage: [Link](#)

*Prof. Dr. Giuseppe T. Cirella, Ph.D., Hab.*

Office: A19

Office Hours: Tuesday, 13:30-15:00

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UG Economics webpage: [Link](#)

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## Goals of the Course:

- *Aim:* to develop a methodological background for a master thesis, including proper formulation of research problems, research questions, hypotheses, and research methods
- to develop research methods and a review paper by learning how to develop a literature review, critical thinking skills, an ability to filter material, cognizing research typology, writing and editing skills, and team player development
- to acquire and systematize knowledge about the core themes of international business and develop research and important (initial) free-thinking skills
- *Introduce:* the concepts and implementation of research methods and skills at the master's level
- Themes and supporting topics:

### Economics

-green sustainability  
-managerial economics  
-statistics in economics  
-econometrics  
-financial instruments  
-market development  
-macroeconomics  
-international economics  
-investment and risk assessment  
-human resources management  
-forecasting economic processes  
-supply chain management  
-socioeconomics  
-culture and settlement patterns  
-tourism and policy  
-entrepreneurialism  
-hometown complex

### International Trade

-comparative advantage  
-tariffs and trade barriers  
-trade agreements  
-free trade vs. protectionism  
-trade deficits and surpluses  
-trade balances and exchange rates  
-trade policy and govt intervention  
-trade finance payment methods  
-export promotion and incentives  
-import substitution vs export-led growth  
-trade in services  
-trade and env'tal sustainability  
-trade disputes and resolution  
-trade & economic development  
-trade & intellectual property rights  
-economic sanctions

### International Finance

-foreign exchange markets  
-exchange rate & their determinants  
-currency valuation & devaluation  
-international monetary system  
-balance of payments  
-international capital flows  
-foreign exchange risk management  
-int'l banking & financial institutions  
-cross-border mergers & acquisitions  
-sovereign debt & debt restructuring  
-international trade financing  
-multinationals & capital budgeting  
-hedging & derivatives in international finance  
-international portfolio diversification  
-international investment & capital markets  
-offshore banking and tax havens  
-eurocurrency market

### Global Supply Chain Management

-supply chain optimization  
-inventory management  
-demand forecasting  
-lean & agile supply chain strategies  
-supplier selection and management  
-transportation and logistics  
-warehouse management  
-global sourcing  
-cross-border trade regulations  
-sustainable supply chain practices  
-supply chain risk management  
-technology in supply chain (RFID)  
-supply chain resilience  
-e-commerce and the supply chain  
-reverse logistics & returns mgmt.  
-supply chain visibility & transparency  
-outsourcing and third-party logistics  
-blockchain in supply chain  
-supply chain analytics and data-driven decision-making

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## Assessment Criteria:

Marks will be calculated into a total of 100 points (and converted into a percentage). The following percentile breakdown will be allocated for grading:

**5.0 points**

90-100%

**4.5 points**

80-89%

**4.0 points**

70-79%

**3.5 points**

60-69%

**3.0 points**

50-59%

**2.0 points**

>50%

## Assignment breakdown:

1. **Presentation [2.5 %]**

2. **Outline of Review Paper [5 %]**

3. **Draft submission of Methodology [7.5 %] and Review Paper [10 %] = [17.5 %]**

4. **Final submission of Methodology [30 %] and Review Paper [45 %] = [75 %]**

**TOTAL = 100 %**

Dropbox submission link: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/5PK3nJOVHeChTNWSPuUL>

**Course Schedule:**

Lecturer	Week	Date	Subject	Task description
Bak + Cirella	41	11.10—23 11:30–13:00	Class #1 – Introductory class, Review paper, research and methodology briefing, make groups	Setting out the principles of the course, assessment, and individual tasks <i>Homework: Groups work together and prepare presentations on the topics discussed in class</i> <b>You have 5 weeks to prepare your homework</b>
Bak	42	18.10—23 11:30–13:00	Class #2 – Research area and problems	Research area and problems Access to electronic journals of the University of Gdansk: <a href="https://en.bg.ug.edu.pl/e-library/e-resources">https://en.bg.ug.edu.pl/e-library/e-resources</a>
Bak	43	25.10—23 11:30–13:00	Class #3 – Research subject and object, research questions, and hypothesis development	Workshop: working with groups and individually on identification of research subject and object, development of RQ and RH <i>Homework: Individual work on the concept of the subject and object of study, as well as designing a scientific research</i> <b>You have 4 weeks to prepare your homework</b>
	44	01.11—23	No class	
	45	08.11—23	No class	
Cirella	46	15.11—23 11:30–13:00	Class #4 – Student presentations on topics, discuss outline of the review paper	<b>Due: 1. Presentation [2.5 %]</b> <i>Present findings to develop the topic and discuss direction with the professors on properly developing the outline of the review paper (each group should do this privately—in or out of class time)</i>
Bak	47	22.11—23 11:30–13:00	Class #5 – Methodology	Discussion regarding individual methodologies Consultations regarding the homework
Cirella	48	29.11—23 11:30–13:00	Class #6 – Discuss review paper and literature review development, finding academic resources online, citation software workshop	<b>Due: 2. Outline of review paper [5 %]</b> <i>Discuss with the professors on how to proceed with the draft</i>
Bak	49	06.12—23 11:30–13:00	Class #7 – Methodology	Discussion regarding individual methodologies Consultations regarding the homework
Cirella	50	13.12—23 11:30–13:00	Class #8 – Final preparation to putting together the Review paper	Discussion regarding the review paper
Bak + Cirella	51	20.12—23 11:30–13:00	Class #9	<b>Due: 3. Draft Submission [17.5 %]</b>
	52	27.12—23	No class	
	1	03.01—24	No class	
Bak + Cirella	2	10.01—24 11:30–13:00	Class #10 – Methodology and review paper: feedback from professors, review and integration of work into a thesis, elevating junior research skills	Discuss with the professors how to proceed with the final submission Comments on draft submission
Bak + Cirella	3	17.01—24 11:30–13:00	Class #11	<b>Due: 4. Final Submission [75 %]</b>
Bak + Cirella	4	24.01—24 11:30–13:00	Class #12 – Conclusion, final comments and assessment	

### Detailed assignment breakdown:

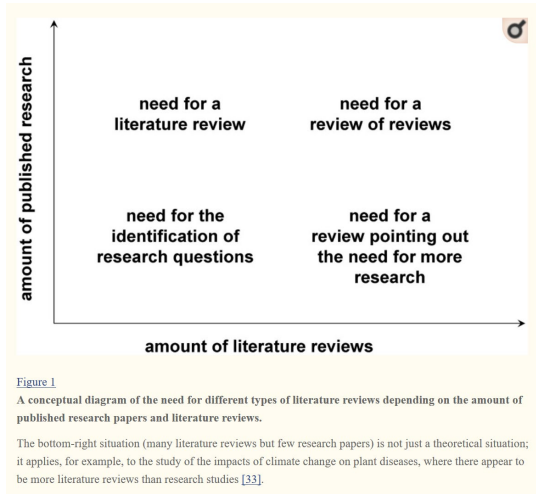
1. **Presentation** [2.5 %] on the topic 15 minutes each, PPT friendly, no videos

2. **Outline of review paper** [5 %]

**Ten Simple Rules for Writing a Literature Review**

by Marco Pautasso and Philip E. Bourne

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3715443/>



- each group will present a detailed outline of their Review Paper as a HARD COPY printed and as a SOFT COPY sent via DROPBOX

- **point form** with the following, 11 pt. New Times Roman font, single spacing

- **Statement of Topic** — A preliminary title (and sub-title (if used))
- ~~Abstract~~ — {leave blank for now}
- **Introduction** — What is the intent or goal of the topic? What do you want to learn? What is the review about? [150-200 words]
- **Background and significance** — What is the problem and why was it important? What knowledge are you building on? [150-300 words]
- **Literature review** — Draft list of the journal articles (should be 30-50 articles) with active DOI  
(Use American Psychological Association (APA) (author-year) format – using Mendeley referencing software)

Present them as a list of articles, for example:

Cirella, G.T., Bąk, M., Koźlak, A., Pawłowska, B., and Borkowski, P. (2019) Transport innovations for elderly people. *Research in Transportation Business and Management*, 30, 100381. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rtbm.2019.100381>

Etc...

Indicate: What is the sample? What types of articles exist? How is data collected and analyzed? Literature review (as appropriate)

- ~~Results~~
- ~~Discussion~~
- ~~Conclusion~~
- ~~References~~

### 3. Draft submission [17.5 %]

- each group will hand-in a HARD COPY printed and a SOFT COPY sent via DROPBOX

- full sentences and paragraph form, word length = 6,000-10,000 (not including References), 11 pt. New Times Roman font, single spacing

- **Statement of Topic** — A preliminary title and sub-title
- **Abstract** — Leave blank [150-250 words]
- **Introduction** — What is the intent or goal of the topic? What do you want to learn? What is the review about? You can also link in parts of the background and significance in the introduction [400-800 words] (*Prof. Bak*)
- **Methodology** — [1000-1500 words] (*Prof. Bak*)
- **Literature review** — what is the state of the art, literature review method used, explain how you found the articles? Explain how you decided what articles to choose? Why you used that method? What are the strengths and weakness of the method? How do you present the reviewed literature? ...Tables? ...Figures? [200-2000 words] (*Prof. Cirella*)
- **Results** — Present results in written, graphical, or tabular format (or any combination of the three) (*Prof. Cirella*)
- **Discussion** — Explain the finding and gap of the topic
- **Conclusion** — What do the findings mean?
- **References** — Use **American Psychological Association (APA)** (author-year) format – using Mendeley referencing software
- Minimum list of the journal articles (i.e., 50 articles) with active DOI (Use American Psychological Association (APA) (author-year) format – using Mendeley referencing software)

Present them as a list of articles, for example:

Cirella, G.T., Bąk, M., Koźlak, A., Pawłowska, B., and Borkowski, P. (2019) Transport innovations for elderly people. *Research in Transportation Business and Management*, 30, 100381. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rtbm.2019.100381>

Etc...

### 4. Final submission [75 %]

- from the draft version comments, each group will complete their final version

- each group will hand-in a HARD COPY printed and a SOFT COPY